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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)	Mail Stop Issue Fee
Dirk Preikszas et al.	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 2881
Application No.: 10/619,475	)	
	)	Examiner: PHILLIP A JOHNSTON
Filed: July 16, 2003	)	
	)	Confirmation No.: 7372
For: OBJECTIVE LENS FOR AN	)	
ELECTRON MICROSCOPY SYSTEM	)	
AND ELECTRON MICROSCOPY	)	
SYSTEM	)	
	)	

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:


Receipt of the Notice of Allowance dated October 5, 2004, is acknowledged with appreciation. The undersigned also appreciates Examiner Johnston's helpful clarifying comments provided during the telephone conversation with the undersigned on December 16, 2004, in which the Examiner concurred that that each claim is separately patentable by virtue of the particular combination of features recited in each independent claim, including, *inter alia*, the particular geometry of the inner and outer pole shoes as individually recited in each independent claim, and the particular electrode arrangement as individually recited in each independent claim, wherein, in the case of claims 15 and 49, the terminal electrode is recited as being magnetically coupled to the outer pole shoe with a gap therebetween, and wherein, in the case of claim 15, such magnetic coupling is recited as reducing the magnetic field in the object plane. The Examiner further clarified that the language "an undistorted

magnetic field in the region of the sample" and "to reduce distortion of the magnetic field along the optical axis" in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance (neither of which are recited in the independent claims), was intended to mean "for reducing the magnetic field in the object plane" as recited in claim 15. This latter language is not recited in claims 1, 31 and 49, and the Examiner concurred that this subject matter is not a limitation of claims 1, 31, and 49.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: January 3, 2005

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